

Sudan cabinet endorses peace pact with rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's cabinet has approved a peace pact which could end more than five years of civil war in the south of the country, state Radio Omdurman said Thursday.

The accord was signed Nov. 16 by rebel leader John Garang of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani, who heads the co-ruling National Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The radio gave no further details of the cabinet decision but the accord has provoked bitter opposition from the National Islamic Front (NIF), a junior partner in the coalition government.

The peace pact calls for a ceasefire and a freeze on the introduction of new Islamic laws until a constitutional conference has been held.

Rebels in the SPLA have been fighting government forces in the south since 1983 to end what it sees as the domination of the region by the north.

An estimated three million people have fled from the area to escape the fighting and starvation caused by crop failure through drought. International relief

efforts in the region have been severely hampered by the civil war.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi earlier told a news conference that the proposed peace agreement did not contain anything which contradicted what he called the security precautions required by Sudan.

"I have told Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani that the accord is a base that we can use to reach subsequent stages until the convening of a national constitutional conference," Mahdi said.

The prime minister appeared confident the pact would be approved by the coalition government and parliament, saying he would form a committee ready for a constitutional conference and another to supervise implementation of the peace accord.

Mahdi added that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni invited him to meet Garang in Kampala but he turned down the invitation.



Sadeq Al Mahdi

The accord, signed in Addis Ababa, also called for the repeal of all military treaties between Sudan and other countries, an apparent reference to Egypt and Libya, as well as the freeze on new Islamic laws ahead of a constitutional conference, which was to be held Dec. 31.

The conference, first proposed more than three years ago, is supposed to agree on a power-sharing formula for Sudan's Muslim majority and ethnic and religious minorities in Africa's largest country.

Mahdi's Umma Party is the senior government partner with the DUP and NIF.

The prime minister told the news conference the NIF had expressed its readiness to participate in the constitutional conference despite its reservations over the southern peace agreement.

Talks between Soviets and Afghan rebels set for Taif

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — An Afghan rebel delegation left Islamabad Friday for talks with a senior Soviet team on ending the 10-year-old war in Afghanistan, rebel spokesmen said.

The talks will be held in the Saudi Arabian city of Taif. The three-man delegation, headed by rebel alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, was flying to Jeddah via Karachi.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov was expected to lead the Soviet delegation, the rebels said. Moscow has neither confirmed nor denied that the negotiations will take place.

Vorontsov, who is also Moscow's ambassador to the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, is believed to be close to Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, diplomats say.

If the talks take place, they will be the first substantive negotiations between Moscow and the Western-backed rebels.

The Kremlin had previously refused to negotiate with the guerrillas, who likewise rejected offers of talks from the Afghan government of President Najibullah.

Last Sunday low-level delegations met in Islamabad for the first time for what Moscow said were talks on the release of Soviet soldiers held by the Mujahideen guerrillas.

The rebel delegation was due to fly to Jeddah from Karachi Friday night and then to Taif, which is near the Holy City of Mecca, the rebel

spokesman said. The talks might then begin as early as Saturday.

Rabbani currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the seven-party rebel alliance based in Pakistan.

The other two members were Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, head of the nationalist Jabha-i-Nijat-Milli party, and Abdul Qadir Keryab, a senior official of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's radical Hezb-i-Islami group.

Rabbani was also accompanied by three aides from his Jamiat-i-Islami party. They included Ahmadzia Massoud, brother of the well-known guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, a Jamiat spokesman in Islamabad said.

"There is no specific agenda, it depends on the Soviets," the spokesman said.

"This is a real progress," a Jabha spokesman said.

The talks would come some 10 weeks before the Soviet Union is due to complete its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan under last April's Geneva accords.

The rebels revealed Tuesday that the negotiations were planned.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said the plans were supposed to have been kept secret and expressed fears that the premature disclosure might embarrass Moscow and prompt it to postpone or even cancel them.

U.S. quits UNTSO in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's administration has ordered all U.S. military officers out of U.N. peacekeeping forces patrolling southern Lebanon, nine months after the abduction of a U.S. officer assigned to duties there.

The decision, disclosed Thursday by senior administration officials who asked not to be named, was attributed to a recent internal review that concluded the risk to U.S. soldiers had "simply grown too great."

"The situation inside Lebanon is not improving and wearing a U.N. badge doesn't mean anything," said one source.

The administration's decision affects a unit known as the observer group Lebanon of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO).

Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William R. Higgins, at the time the senior U.S. officer assigned to the group, was kidnapped last Feb. 17 while driving on a coastal road between the Lebanese city of Tyre and the border town of Naqura.

He became the ninth U.S. citizen to be seized as a hostage in Lebanon, all apparently by pro-Iranian groups.

The administration sources said Thursday the U.S. soldiers assigned to Observer Group Lebanon were ordered out during the past week.

"They are no longer in southern Lebanon. They've been withdrawn over the last several days," said one source.

"It's too risky," said another official. "The risk to our people is now considered too high and we don't want them travelling inside Lebanon."

The U.N. organisation has an authorised strength of 209 military personnel, who are drawn from 17 nations.

ICRC hostage appeals to Swiss government

BEIRUT (R) — A letter signed with the name of Red Cross hostage Peter Winkler said Friday he had been seized in Lebanon because he was a Swiss citizen and appealed to the Swiss government to save his life.

Winkler, working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in South Lebanon, was kidnapped by three masked gunmen near the 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp Nov. 17.

"I was kidnapped not as a Red Cross delegate but as a Swiss citizen. My government knows what my kidnappers want from me and it has to cooperate in order to save my life," the handwritten letter, delivered to an international news agency in west Beirut, said.

There was no immediate way of authenticating the letter, which carried no date and was not accompanied by a photograph, the usual identification procedure for statements from kidnappers in Lebanon.

No claims of responsibility have been made for the abduction of the 32-year-old Swiss

ICRC worker near the refugee camp on the outskirts of Sidon 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

The ICRC withdrew its five other Swiss employees from Sidon Nov. 24 because of the kidnapping and said it could not rule out suspending all its operations in southern Lebanon.

His abduction raised to 18 the number of Westerners missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon. Most are believed held by pro-Iranian groups seeking political concessions from the West.

Some Lebanese media reports linked Winkler's disappearance with the arrest in Switzerland of Lebanese Hussein Hariri, who hijacked an Air Afrique plane on a flight from Rome to Paris and forced it to land in Geneva in July 1987.

Hariri's trial was scheduled for November but it was postponed to allow psychiatrists to examine him further.

The letter received Friday, the first apparent communication from Winkler since his abduction, said: "I am here for more than two weeks now, and maybe I will stay here for long time."

Israeli throws acid at Demjanjuk attorney

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli hurling acid in the face of an attorney for convicted Nazi guard John Demjanjuk Thursday at a funeral for another defence lawyer, police said.

Witnesses said attorney Yoram Shefiel and another woman were taken to hospital for eye injuries after the assailant, a frequent spectator at Demjanjuk's 15-month trial, threw a bottle of acid during the burial of Dov Eitan.

Eitan, 53, leaped to his death Tuesday from the 15th floor of Jerusalem's tallest office block leaving no suicide note. Police said the jump of the former judge, who had recently joined Demjanjuk's defence team, was a mystery.

Israelis have voiced resentment that Jewish lawyers would defend a suspected Nazi war criminal. Demjanjuk, 68, was sentenced to death in April for atrocities at Treblinka camp in Poland during World War II.

In a brief statement on the assault, police spokesman Rafi Levy told reporters: "The man, age 70, from Jerusalem, is a Holocaust survivor." He said the motives were under investigation.

The assailant's name was not immediately released. Reporters who covered the trial of Demjanjuk said the man was a frequent spectator at the proceedings.

The assailant was seen being dragged away, covering his face with his hands.

Baghdad accuses Tehran of double-cross over POWs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq accused Iran Thursday of double-crossing it and vowed not to free any more Iranian prisoners-of-war (POWs) unless Tehran released Iraqi captives listed for an earlier exchange.

"Iraq will not release the remaining number of Iranian POWs unless the Iranians return those agreed on at (peace talks in) Geneva," Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in Baghdad.

Iran stopped the swap Sunday after only 153 Iraqis and 56 Iranians were returned in three days. Tehran blamed Baghdad for the breakdown of the accord, under which another 190 Iraqis and 67 Iranians were to have gone home.

The accord, the biggest breakthrough in peace talks since an

Aug. 20 ceasefire ended eight years of fighting, covers 411 Iranian and 1,158 Iraqi sick or wounded POWs. They were to have been returned over 10 days.

In a speech on Iraqi Martyrs' Day, Aziz said Iran followed a "double-crossing means when it released less than half the number agreed with the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), stemming from baseless justifications."

Iran says it failed to return 190 of an agreed 345 POWs over the three days because they were no longer sick or wounded or had sought asylum.

Aziz said Thursday that Iraq had responded by withholding a proportionate number of Iranians, or 67 of the 123 scheduled to go home.

Akram Al Witri, head of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department, told Reuters Thursday that Iraq was willing to hand over the 67 POWs if Iran freed the 190 Iraqis, whom he said were kept in Iran for false and vague reasons.

He said Iraq wanted the ICRC to provide documentary proof that the reasons given by Iran were accurate.

An ICRC spokesman said in Geneva Monday that explanations by both countries for the breakdown of the accord were inadequate and it was negotiating with them for a resumption.

The POWs were returned in a DC-9 plane chartered by the ICRC and shuttling between Tehran and Baghdad.

Iran and Iraq hold a total of about 100,000 POWs captured during the war.

Amnesty appeals to Iran to halt execution of political prisoners

LONDON (Agencies) — The human rights watchdog group Amnesty International said Thursday it had details of 30 political prisoners who face hanging in Iran and it called for a halt to such executions.

The Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, based in Baghdad, said Tuesday that Iranian authorities executed more than 5,000 political prisoners between August and November in a crackdown on dissidents.

An Amnesty spokeswoman said those who now face the death penalty were arrested in 1980 or 1981 and many were believed to be prisoners of conscience.

"Some were convicted of distributing leaflets, others of disturbing the peace at political rallies. Most were students and supporters of the banned people's Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, sentenced to prison terms from six months to five years," she said.

Amnesty and other concerned groups were organising a campaign of letters and messages to the Iranian government calling for death sentences to be commuted and for those jailed only for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs to be released, she said.

Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said Thursday that 12,000 political prisoners have been executed in Iran since August, a significant jump in the number they

announced earlier this week.

The latest claim came in a statement from Maryam Rajavi, joint leader of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq with her husband Masoud, telecast to the AP in Cyprus.

The statement said that 6,400 of the prisoners were executed in Evin and Qazvin prisons as well as Gohardasht prison in the city of Karaj, just outside Tehran.

The group said the executions were carried out under the orders of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Iran has denied that thousands of political prisoners were executed, saying only those who had taken up arms against the country or other individuals were put to death.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 2211-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:30 News in French
15:30 News in Arabic
15:30 News in English
15:30 News in Hebrew
15:30 News in Urdu
15:30 News in Persian
15:30 News in Russian
15:30 News in Chinese
15:30 News in Japanese
15:30 News in Hindi
15:30 News in Bengali
15:30 News in Malayalam
15:30 News in Tamil
15:30 News in Telugu
15:30 News in Kannada
15:30 News in Marathi
15:30 News in Gujarati
15:30 News in Odia
15:30 News in Assamese
15:30 News in Punjabi
15:30 News in Sindhi
15:30 News in Urdu
15:30 News in Persian
15:30 News in Russian
15:30 News in Chinese
15:30 News in Japanese
15:30 News in Hindi
15:30 News in Bengali
15:30 News in Malayalam
15:30 News in Tamil
15:30 News in Telugu
15:30 News in Kannada
15:30 News in Marathi
15:30 News in Gujarati
15:30 News in Odia
15:30 News in Assamese
15:30 News in Punjabi
15:30 News in Sindhi

RADIO JORDAN

885 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

& parli on 99.0 KHz. SW

Tel. 2211-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'Unité Saint Romains
18:00 News in French
18:00 News in Arabic
18:00 News in English
18:00 News in Hebrew
18:00 News in Urdu
18:00 News in Persian
18:00 News in Russian
18:00 News in Chinese
18:00 News in Japanese
18:00 News in Hindi
18:00 News in Bengali
18:00 News in Malayalam
18:00 News in Tamil
18:00 News in Telugu
18:00 News in Kannada
18:00 News in Marathi
18:00 News in Gujarati
18:00 News in Odia
18:00 News in Assamese
18:00 News in Punjabi
18:00 News in Sindhi

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hana Art Centre Open all week 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

Philatelic Museum: Jewels and currencies over 100 years old. Also museum from Malaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Yarmouk Tel. 857-900

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crucifix Hill) Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) Closed Tuesdays

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwchich, Tel. 62-241

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 62-4901

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwchich, Tel. 62-241

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwchich, Tel. 62-241

Terrace Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwchich, max in Italian language, meet twice Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 62-241

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PRAYER TIMES

06:53 Fajr
10:14 Sunrise/Duha
11:25 Dhuhr
14:12 'Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Jabal Luwchich, Tel. 62-241

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

Queen Alia International Airport

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 522424, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:55 Baghdad (RJ)

09:00 New Delhi (RJ)

09:10 Athens (RJ)

09:15 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

Arab Organisation for Arabian Horses founded

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The establishment of an Arab Organisation for Arabian Horses (AOAH) has been announced here by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia who was also elected president of the organisation's board of directors.

The organisation aims to preserve Arabian horses and improve their breeds. It will coordinate Arab countries' efforts in developing stocks of Arabian horses and will carry out programmes and competitions, conduct research work and promote veterinary services for horses, according to an official statement following the announcement.

Princess Alia made a speech at a meeting of the organisation's board which included representatives from Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco and Syria, in addition to Jordan.

Princess Alia paid tribute to the participating countries and pointed out the Arab civilisation has been linked to thoroughbred horses throughout history.

Last August a constituent assembly held a meeting in Amman to discuss the setting up of the organisation, and this was followed by a show of over 100 pure bred Arabian horses from different Arab countries.

Regent, Rifai review work of team charged with stimulating economy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday reviewed the work of a special ministerial team entrusted with stimulating the economic development process in the light of the government's recent monetary and financial resolutions.

Prince Hassan called for close cooperation between councils and concerned parties on the one hand and the ministerial team and the development councils on the other, to achieve the aspired goals.

He said all channels of communication should be opened between the private and public sectors organisations in the course of planning and executing projects.

The team, set up by the government, groups the ministers of finance, supply, planning, industry and trade, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs, the CBI governor and his deputy and Prince Hassan's economic advisor.

'Jordan does not import blood'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Thursday that Jordan does not purchase any amount of blood from other countries and depends on the blood donors from inside Jordan to provide blood to hospitals during surgical operations.

The Health Ministry continues to encourage citizens to donate blood to the blood bank and subjects all collected amounts of blood to very thorough tests to ensure that they contain no AIDS viruses or other diseases, the minister said in a statement to mark World AIDS Day Thursday.

Hamzeh assured citizens that the Health Ministry was maintaining close cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on means and methods of combating the killer disease acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and reporting to

the organisation about AIDS victims or AIDS carrier cases.

The Minister of Health last week reported the discovery of one more AIDS carrier in Jordan thus raising to 17 the total number of carriers of this dangerous disease.

The ministry said that the new addition was a young boy who had contracted the virus through blood transfusion but gave no other details.

Over the past three years only three deaths of AIDS victims were reported by the Ministry of Health which has launched an intensive public awareness campaign in its drive to fight the disease.

WHO has reported that by 1991 over a million people were likely to have AIDS and that about half a million babies would be born carrying the virus by the early 1990s.

At present there are most 80,000 reported cases of AIDS in the U.S., France has 4,000 cases, while Britain is known to have about 2,000, according to WHO estimates.

Hamzeh said that there was no need for worry because the Health Ministry was doing all that it can to fight off the disease.

But, he added, cooperation from the public with an ad hoc national committee and extra care to safeguard health were needed in the campaign against the dangerous disease.

AOAS to ask Egypt to rejoin organisation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Studies (AOAS) general assembly Thursday decided to ask Egypt to rejoin the organisation following a break of nine years which followed Cairo's signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

The decision came during the assembly's 24th meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Rishmani, the United Arab Emirates representative.

The assembly also endorsed a \$2.5 million budget for 1989 and a general programme for AOAS in the coming year and said that the plan provides for measures that would help promote inter-Arab economic cooperation.

The plan also provides for an increase in technical assistance to less developed Arab states and training for their personnel in public administration affairs.

Accidents claim 6 lives in last week of October

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Six persons died and 144 others were injured in road accidents which occurred in Jordan in the last week of October 1988, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The statement said the casualties were the result of 191 accidents that mostly involved knocking down pedestrians due to speeding, careless driving and other violations of the traffic regulations.

According to the statement these figures register an increase over the number of accidents that occurred in the Kingdom in the previous week of October when only 159 accidents were registered causing the death of one person and the injury of 143 others.

In a separate development, Al Dostour Daily Friday reported the death of a 22-year-old woman in Jabal Nathif district of Amman, who was stabbed to death by her own father identified only as HAA.

The paper said that the father stabbed his daughter with a knife several times causing her immediate death and the police who arrested the man were holding an investigation, but it gave no details about the motives of the murder.

Egyptian minister opens Jordanian trade fair

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan's industrial and trade fair is now open in Cairo, displaying national products manufactured by 120 companies and industrial businesses.

Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mustapha opened the fair at a ceremony attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer and Egyptian government officials.

Mustapha said that Egypt will hold its national industrial fair in Amman early next year in accordance with a bilateral agreement to help promote the sale of Egyptian products in Jordanian markets.

"Jordanian-Egyptian trade has immensely been developed and cooperation in agriculture, industry and electricity has greatly been boosted, benefiting the peoples of the two countries," Mustapha said in a speech at the opening ceremony.

The minister said his country encourages Arab and foreign investments in Egypt which now enjoys economic and political stability and offers incentives for investors.

This is the fourth Jordanian industrial fair to be held in Arab countries following those held in order to promote the sale of Jordanian products, according to Ministry of Industry's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.



French week concludes with fashion show

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the conclusion of the French week, held in Amman last week, the French Embassy in cooperation with the French School and the French Ladies Society, Thursday held their final party which included a children's fashion show at the Marriott Hotel.

Children, participating in the event, performed a unique fashion show including French clothes and costumes designed by a number of the most famous designers of children clothes in Paris.

At the end of the party, lottery was drawn for two return tickets "Amman-Paris-Amman" presented by Air France. The winners were Francoise Colo and Ali Abdul Fattah.

The performance received the full admiration of the audience, which grouped a number of the French community members in Amman.

At the beginning of the event Sunday, another lottery was drawn for the return ticket "Amman-Paris-New York, business class, and New York-Paris by the Concord plane and Paris-Amman business class. The winner was Fayeze Al Qudsi from IBM company.

Proceeds of the event will benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation projects.

Seminar seeks to create company to deal with organic-fertilisers

Jordan urged to speed up new environment law

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A three-day seminar to deal with the negative effects of agricultural projects on the environment ended Thursday by recommending that the government speed up work on a new environment law and calling for the creation of a specialised company to deal with the organic-fertilisers (manure) to help reduce the spread of flies and other harmful insects.

duct research on the effects of fertilisers on soil and crops.

It also urged farmers to stop irrigating crops through sprinklers as this method was found to be causing damage to citrus fruits and farm workers, and causing further pollution.

The seminar which was organised by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment reviewed working papers by different Jordanian organisations including the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

The participants focused attention on means of curtailing pollution and methods to apply fertiliser and the education of farmers in methods of safeguarding the environment.

A statement Thursday said that the participants urged the Ministry of Agriculture to intensify its farmers' guidance campaigns on the proper use of pesticides, fertilisers and plastic materials, and urged the government to conduct

environmental studies on the negative effects of agricultural schemes on the environment as a whole.

It said that specifications should be found for the various types pesticides used in Jordan so that minimum harm can be done to the environment and health.

The statement recommended the establishment of a special fund to finance projects designed to protect the environment with those causing most pollution to be the main contributors to the fund which will finance research.

It urged the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to coordinate efforts with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in organising animals enclosures within the boundaries of various towns, conduct research on the effects of fertilisers on soil and crops.

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Comprehensive health centre may include cancer detection facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Thursday expressed his ministry's readiness to accommodate the proposed centre for the early detection of cancer in one of the comprehensive health centres in Amman as a first step, and disclosed the ministry's plans to spread such centres throughout the Kingdom.

The minister made this statement during a meeting with administrative committee members of the Jordanian Society for Combating Cancer, who briefed Hamzeh on the society's activities.

cooperation with other Arab societies for combating cancer.

Hamzeh lauded the society's activities, saying that they are in line with the actual role of the non-governmental organisations.

He noted the important role played by the society and said that it supplements the primary health care services provided by the ministry.

On Wednesday Hamzeh laid the foundation stones for three health centres in Ma'an Governorate.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 380

Drawing of: Dec. 2, 1988

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 49492 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100 49493 49402 49592 40492 59492 49491 49482 49392 48492 39492
Holder of ticket No. 75791 Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60 75792 75701 75891 76791 05791 75790 75781 75691 74791 65791
Holder of ticket No. 22350 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30 22351 22360 22450 23350 32350 22359 22340 22250 21350 12350
Holder of ticket No. 27161 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 27162 27171 27261 28161 37161 27160 27151 27061 26161 17161
Holder of ticket No. 02611 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15 02612 02621 02711 03611 12611 02610 02601 02511 01611 72611
Holder of ticket No. 34946 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10 34947 34956 34046 35946 44946 34945 34936 34846 33946 24946
Holder of ticket No. 68152 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 68153 68162 68252 69152 78152 68151 68142 68052 67152 57152
Holder of ticket No. 60085 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 60086 60095 60185 61085 70085 60084 60075 60985 69085 50085

Ticket numbers	17261 31308 15488 54892	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	13841 62493 27640	win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

3804 0001 1186 5342 7472	Win JD 20 each	9922 9393 5797 3267 0346	Win JD 10 each
447 232 370 638 142	Win JD 5 each		
8000 tickets ending with	8	Win JD 2 each.	

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in	707 384 754 200 015	Win JD 10
Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number	379 of	Nov. 17, 1988
Mohammad Kofas Irbid, Merchant Half-first JD 12,500	Imad Abu Omer Irbid, Lab. Technician Half-first JD 12,500	Malik Jurei (child) Amman Half-second JD 3,000
Saleem Imam (child) Marj Al Hammam, Student Half-second JD 3,000	Ismauddin Mahmoud Amman, Labourer Full-third JD 3,000	Saad Abdul Salam Amman, Labourer Half-fourth JD 1,250
Tareq Mansour Amman, Labourer Half-fifth JD 750		

Next Drawing takes place on **Dec. 17, 1988**
First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- An exhibition on Aila, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities, Registration and Research Centre.
- A combined exhibit of watercolours, oils and prints including works by: Firyal Asami, Diana Shammunk, Rima Farah, and few other artists, with a display of wall hangings by Yvonne Yassin on popular Nursery Rhyme Themes at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Gallery.
- The annual book exhibition of the Yarmouk University which includes academic, scientific and cultural books.
- An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at the Fine Arts Department, the Yarmouk University.

LECTURES

- A lecture entitled "Museum in Education in Bavaria" by Dr. Manfred Vogt at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 n.
- A lecture on the use of drugs and steroids in sports by Dr. Ahmad Musa at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- An Italian film entitled "Metello" (titled) at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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The Benazir factor

THE naming of 35-year-old Benazir Bhutto as the new prime minister of Pakistan is a victory for democracy as well as for womanhood. This double triumph has not been easy. It was achieved with relentless determination and iron will against great odds.

But this success story in Pakistan is still fraught with dangers and uncertainties as Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party strength in the newly elected National Assembly is not complete. Ms. Bhutto will have to form a coalition government with forces that might not see eye to eye with her and her party on all issues. That is why the stakes for democracy and equality of women in Pakistan are high. All the developing countries, especially Muslim nations, are clearly keeping close watch over the new Pakistani experiment in democracy with a young woman at the helm of this fresh experience. Indeed, the whole international community join the Pakistani people in pinning great hopes on the new Pakistani leader.

Although youthful and fresh, Benazir Bhutto is also very mature and seasoned by the many trials and tribulations she has experienced since her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed in 1979. Above all, she has been transformed from a bitter and angry woman into a stateswoman of national reconciliation. How well she succeed in achieving reconciliation in her fragile country will determine her political future. Her success in the immediate and long-range future would be a cause for joy throughout the Muslim World.

First and foremost, her perseverance and political triumphs would substantiate the "proposition that the developing Muslim nations are as capable of coming of age as countries with other religions and ideologies. Seen from this perspective, all Muslim faithfuls must join in one common prayer and wish Benazir Bhutto continuous triumphs for the sake of her nation as well as for the sake of the rest of the Muslim World.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Daily on Friday discussed the coming meeting in Rhodes by the leaders of the European Community nations who are bound to tackle the Middle East question and Washington's decision to harp PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from entering the U.S. to address the U.N. General Assembly. These nations' statement, issued Thursday, which considered the proclamation of the Palestine state as a constructive step towards the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East has also demanded that the U.S. and Israel respond favourably to the PLO's bid for peace, the paper noted. It said that such statement and any future moves in this direction should be regarded as a kind of pressure on Washington and Tel Aviv to abandon their previous attitudes towards the projected conference. This statement is also a clear indication that the European Community plans to take other steps towards resolving the Middle East problem, the paper added. This European stand, the paper said, is a source of satisfaction for the Arab Nation which hopes that European leaders will exert further pressure on Israel and the United States to make positive moves towards a genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the huge amounts of hard currency which Jordan spends every year on importing European fashion clothes and asks if it is right to consider refrigerators as luxury goods hanned from the list of Jordanian imports while continuing to purchase clothes that could be made locally. Salah Abdul Samad also questions the wisdom behind the fashion shows that are being held here now and then to display the latest fashions from Europe and other countries of the world and stresses that refrigerators and not the latest models should be considered as basic commodities for Jordanian families. Indeed the cost of imported dresses sometimes exceed that which is paid for refrigerators which last for generations while dresses have a short life and models keep changing one year after another the writer continues. "What I mean to say is that it is good that we curtailed the purchase of refrigerators and other imported commodities," but, he adds, "we should take a serious look at luxury commodities that we can do without and for which Jordanians can find a substitute in Jordan itself."

Al Dstour daily wrote about King Hussein's visit to Egypt and the talks he held with President Hosni Mubarak. King Hussein has once again reiterated that the Palestine issue remains the focus of world attention and the positive and constructive stand of the PLO has been deeply appreciated by all nations of the world, the paper noted. It said that this favourable situation has come about as a result of the intensive Arab efforts backing the PLO stand and the recent Algiers proclamation by the Palestine National Council. There is no doubt that King Hussein's relentless efforts on all fronts and his endeavours to consolidate the Arab Nation's stand have contributed to winning over many nations' support for our Arab cause, the paper noted. It said that the King's continued consultations with Arab leaders and his current visits abroad are also bound to add further momentum to the PLO's drive to achieve peace and regain the usurped lands and rights.

U.S. allies look for fresh Mideast start from Bush

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — America's allies, exasperated by a U.S. decision to refuse a visa to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, are still looking to a fresh start in the Middle East by President-elect George Bush, Western diplomats say.

But they warned that this would be made more difficult if the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab countries toughened their position when the U.N. debate that Arafat was due to address goes ahead.

The Palestinian leader was denied a visa at the weekend to speak Thursday at the General Assembly in New York, on the grounds that the PLO posed a terrorist threat to Americans.

But they warned that this would be made more difficult if the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab countries toughened their position when the U.N. debate that Arafat was due to address goes ahead.

The Bush team will take over from the Ronald Reagan administration on Jan. 20.

Shultz's decision, bailed in Israel, has been greeted with dismay almost everywhere else. Some of Washington's principal European allies, including France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark, have voiced astonishment.

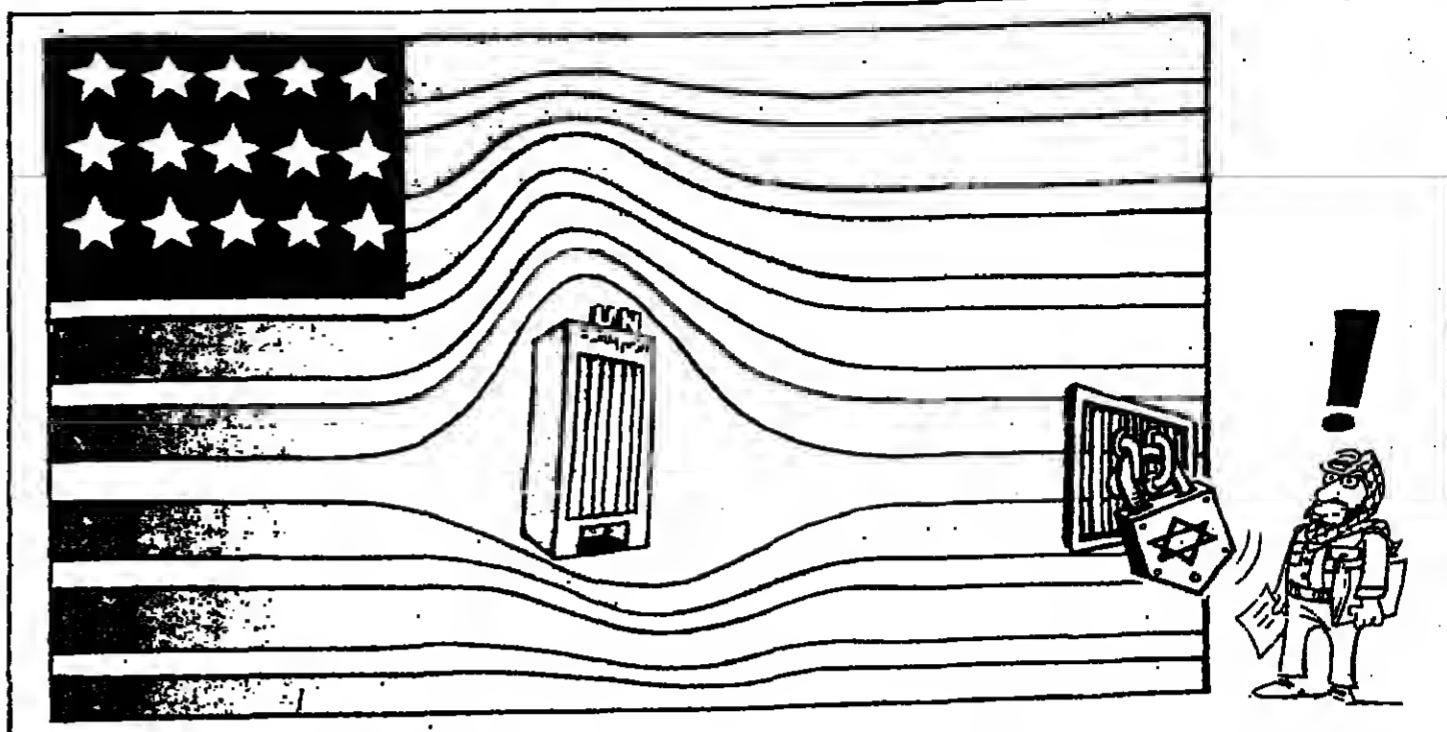
The harshest European reaction saw the move as a deliberate attempt by a dying administration to tie the hands of the Bush team and frustrate a new diplomatic offensive by the PLO.

The aim, the influential French newspaper Le Monde said, was "to render a last service to Israel, and attempt to slow, if not block any further development of American policy in the Middle East."

The visa row comes after an effort by the PLO at a meeting in Algiers earlier this month to kick-start Middle East negotiations by adopting a more flexible line towards Israel.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) endorsed U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which implicitly acknowledges Israel's right to exist, and also declared an independent state which more than 50 countries have recognised.

European Community states



were encouraged by these moves but Washington said they did not go far enough and that the PLO had not totally "abandoned violence."

West European officials took heart from the fact that Bush and his aides were not consulted over the visa decision, although Bush, as vice-president, was informed.

"I should think they were bloody grateful they weren't consulted," one official said.

But diplomats and experts said much would depend on the tone of the General Assembly debate.

Arab delegates at the U.N. are trying either to get the U.S. decision reversed — an effort most analysts said was doomed to failure — or to have the debate held in Geneva where Arafat could address it, possibly in mid-December. U.N. officials said Tuesday a mid-December Geneva debate was the most likely course.

The analysts said the PLO chief stood to gain from the visa future, at least in the short term, since his U.N. speech was likely

to be received with more attention and sympathy by the world community.

But they said harsh anti-American rhetoric from the Arabs at the session could make it more difficult for Bush to offer any olive branch in future.

This would enable PLO hard-liners opposed to a peace settlement to exploit ambiguities in the PNC resolutions and force Arafat himself to backtrack.

"Possibly the greater danger is that Arafat's enemies will reinterpret the Algiers decisions to

suit themselves, and that something will be said from the Palestinian side which will make things very difficult," said Christopher Gandy, a British writer on the Middle East.

This could mean the squandering of a unique opportunity, with the PLO moving towards compromise, and a change of U.S.

administration with an incoming president familiar with the Middle East and some of the players involved, analysts said.

Algerian president pushes through reform programme

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

ALGIERS — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has had his way at a congress of the country's ruling party, pushing through a programme of political reforms which could eventually lead to a multi-party system.

The programme opens the National Liberation Front (FLN) to a variety of opinions and allows independents to stand for parliament.

Its adoption is a radical change for a party which has monopolised power and imposed conformity for the last quarter of a century.

In pushing through his proposals, Chadli had to strike a balance between an Algerian public impatient for change and party hard-liners reluctant to renounce a dominant position.

Opposition to the changes came out into the open during preparatory meetings but by the time the 5,000 delegates gathered in Algiers last Sunday, Chadli's reformist camp had outflanked a disorganised backbench revolt.

At one stage there was speculation that Chadli might have to make a tactical offer to resign. But on Monday evening his nomination as party leader and automatically sole candidate in next month's presidential elections went through smoothly.

"There were a few hitches along the way which might have thrown the wagon off the tracks," one diplomat said. "But all in all he got what he wanted."

The party newspaper El Moudjahid described the changes as "a profound political reform which would lead to transformations at all levels of power."

Algeria analyst Farid Traboulsi said it was a revolution for the FLN but, he noted, "the old guard are still there and the party structure is not going to disappear overnight."

Those who have survived a partial purge include Mohammed Cherif Messadia, number two in the party until Chadli sacked him in October, former Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and most of the military leadership.

Algerians in the street were sceptical that much would change quickly. "It is still a one-party state and the people at the top pull at the strings," bank clerk Ahmed Saidi said.

The pressure for reform mounted in October after tens of thousands of disaffected youngsters took to the streets of Algeria's main cities on a rampage of looting and arson.

Economic hardships sparked off the rioting, but analysts said the FLN, one of the main targets, had contributed to discontent by losing touch with the Algerian public. At least 161 people died when troops were called out to end the unrest.

It was the FLN which led the war against French colonial rule from 1954 until independence in 1962 and for the next 26 years it lived largely on its laurels as the movement which liberated the country.

Its austere, Socialist economic policies left little room for private enterprise and billions of dollars in oil and gas revenue went to waste on overmanned heavy industries which never ran at a profit.

FLN officials say the main

thrust of Chadli's reforms is to take the party back to its pre-independence status as a broad front grouping diverse opinions instead of the monolithic institution it later became.

The congress document explaining the new criteria for party membership are not yet available but Chadli repeated on Monday evening an offer to let in anyone who was sincere and patriotic.

A resume of the political resolutions published in El Moudjahid on Tuesday suggested an ambiguous and possibly still contentious attitude towards an eventual multi-party system.

"A multi-party system can in no way be granted to groups whose only aim is the power and privileges which a superficial democracy would give them," read one of the main resolutions.

Later, however, it conceded that "political action led by the

rank and file with popular support could end in a political pluralism which differs fundamentally from a superficial multi-party system."

"Popular mobilisation...is the only way which will determine at the end of the day if there can be other parties and other programmes which can really be accepted outside the FLN."

The chairman of the congress and head of the FLN secretariat, Abdelhamid Mehri, told reporters on Monday the party's priority was to try out the idea of bringing different views into the party before looking at any multi-party system.

The FLN is expected to hold an extraordinary congress within a year or two to follow up the process of reform, Mehri added. Congresses are usually held every five years.

The voice of a friend

The following is a letter sent by the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, the president of the Palestine National Council, on Nov. 14.

I COMMEND the decision of the Palestine National Council to ratify a new political programme. This undeniably enhances the role of the Palestinian people in the international peace process. It is an essential link in the peace process.

Your acceptance of U.N. Resolution 242, your recognition of Israel, and your renunciation of the use of terrorism, represent a maturity of judgment that people of good will everywhere concerned with peace in the Middle East are inspired to support.

We here in the United States working for a peace policy that our government should embrace are encouraged by this most recent action on your part.

I have long supported a mutual recognition policy that affirms the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood and the right of Israel to security within internationally recognised borders. At the heart of peace is justice: mutual security, mutual recognition and respect. I hope this political and diplomatic initiative will receive a reciprocal response and hasten the day of peace, when Israelis and Palestinians will sit around a common table and study war no more.

I urge you to remain committed to the principle of lasting peace through negotiation and mutual recognition, confident that the world community shares the vision of a day when the children of Palestine and the children of Israel will live in peace together.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Soviet hijack

(Continued from page 1)

five "wanted to fly out of the Soviet Union. That's why they kidnapped the bus with the children."

Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev said the fate of the hijackers, whose extradition the Soviet Union has requested, would be decided in consultation with the foreign ministry.

Security sources described the hijackers as "criminals, not terrorists."

Asked if the gunmen were Jewish, Bar-Lev told reporters: "They did not identify themselves but I don't think they came here for Zionist reasons."

The drama began Thursday when the assailants hijacked a bus carrying schoolchildren and teachers in the southern Russian city of Ordzhonikidze and demanded to be flown out of the Soviet Union, officials in Moscow said.

"To save the teachers and children on this bus, a decision was taken to provide a plane to the handi," Albert Vlasov, head of the official Soviet news agency Novosti, told reporters.

The hostages were released after Soviet authorities provided the plane from the state airline Aeroflot.

The Soviet news agency TASS said that while negotiations were conducted between Soviet authorities and the hijackers, the crew had been handcuffed at the hijackers' demand.

Communist Party sources in Ordzhonikidze said they did not believe the seizure of the plane was connected with the ethnic unrest that has rocked Armenia and the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan for much of this year.

It was apparently the first time the Kremlin, normally tough with hijackers, had provided a plane to people demanding to leave the country. Political analysts said it showed Moscow was placing new emphasis on saving hostages' lives in such situations.

Bhutto sworn in as premier

(Continued from page 1)

and was going to be prime minister."

"It feels great," Bhutto told reporters after the ceremony. "It is a very moving experience."

She became the first popularly elected government leader in Pakistan since her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, came to power in 1971.

Bhutto was overthrown by Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in a 1977 military coup and hanged two years later.

Zia ruled eight years under martial law and three years with a limited civilian government before he died in a plane crash last August.

Since her father's death, Bhutto had pledged to oust Zia and restore democracy to Pakistan.

About 300 Pakistani officials, lawmakers and foreign ambassadors attended the ceremony in the presidency, a modern building between the Senate and National Assembly in the federal capital of Islamabad.

After reciting the oath and singing it, Bhutto received an extended round of muffled applause that was drowned out when members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) rose and cheered "Bhutto lives."

Bhutto's government must still pass a confidence vote in the National Assembly within 60 days

King Hussein in London

(Continued from page 1)

The King's talks with Mubarak dealt with current Arab affairs and bilateral relations, Petra said.

The agency quoted the King as expressing deep satisfaction with the general Arab situation and the outcome of talks with Arab leaders during his recent visits to Arab capitals. The talks, he said, dealt with questions of common concern as well as means to end misunderstanding among Arab governments.

King Hussein told reporters in Cairo world support for the Palestinian cause was growing. Most people backed "the responsible Palestinian attitude," adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) this month in Algiers, the King said.

"The Palestinian problem now commands the attention of the whole world after the historic decisions taken at the meeting of the Palestine National Council under the leadership of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation), the sole

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the King said.

"I believe that right will triumph judging from the world wide welcome given to the responsible Palestinian stance," King Hussein said.

The process, he said, will continue until a just and honourable peace has been established and until the rights of the Palestinian people have been restored.

Mubarak said Egypt's coordination with Jordan would continue since it is directed towards serving the Arab Nation's interests.

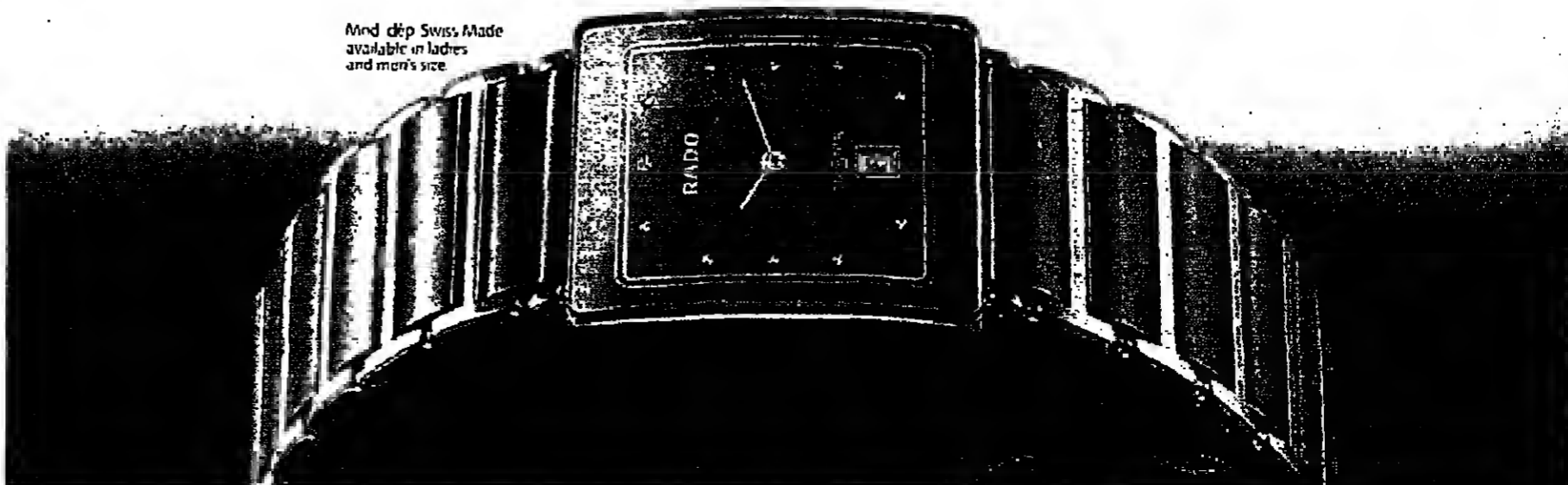
Mubarak said he had sent messages to U.S. president and secretary of state dealing with an entry visa to the United States for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Asked whether he had plans to visit the United States after President-elect George Bush's inauguration, Jan. 20, Mubarak said:

"I believe it is very early to talk about this. And such a visit depends on an invitation being extended."

The anatomic solution.

RADO DiaStar



A model student gets a prize

By Ma'moun Arar
Special to the Jordan Times

Fahd A. Salameh, a post-graduate student in English Literature at the University of Jordan, an employee in Radio Jordan, a member of The Friendship Association for the Blind, and father of a three-year-old Rawan and one-year-old Ribal. He was awarded the first prize by the British Council in Amman for the essay he submitted on the relevance of T.S. Eliot, organised in co-operation with the three Jordanian universities.

After the celebration was over, I met Salameh and talked to him about many different matters. He seemed calm, self-possessed, frank and confident. His character remained unaffected or possibly even strengthened by his visual handicap. But what impressed me most, was the deep gratitude he paid to so many people in almost every activity he practised, never claiming all for his personal efforts. The following is the transcript of the interview he gave me:

Q: Could you give us a resume of your award winning essay?

A: You know, sir, that an essay depends more on the creative ability than on bookish material. My essay basically held one idea, that is, the relevance of T.S. Eliot, the person, the dramatist, critic, poet and thinker to our present age. The essay was not a critical appreciation of any of Eliot's literary works, but rather, a very general survey, linking them with our age.

Q: How were you spurred to join in this competition, knowing that your thesis is Conrad and Kipling, not Eliot?

A: I must admit that my participation came as a direct response



Fahd A. Salameh, his wife Muzayyan, daughter Rawan and son Ribal

to the request made in the announcement which I was first made aware of by Professor Mohammed Shaheen, Chairman of the English Department and who happens to be the supervisor of my thesis. To my professor I owe the gratitude for encouragement and his confidence in my literary competence.

Q: Mr. Salameh, how did you feel when you learned that your essay won the first prize?

A: It was gratifying. Nonetheless, if you would allow me, sir, to pay tribute to those who deserve it: on behalf of my winning colleagues and myself, our deepest gratitude and appreciation go to Her Majesty Queen Noor for her generous patronage of the celebration, and the great interest and evaluation we felt on Her Majesty's part for literature in general and our modest contributions in particular. A special tribute I would like to pay to both His Highness Prince Raad and Her Highness Princess Majedah for the great care and warm affection both showed to my wife

and myself in particular; and the incessant efforts both make to enable handicapped people lead a decent life as partners in our Jordanian family. We also express our thanks to His Excellency, the British Ambassador in Jordan for the cordial and friendly feelings. We are obliged to all the members and staff of the British Council and the Jordanian universities for organising this competition and for honouring me with this prize.

Q: Mr. Salameh, you are pursuing your studies at the University of Jordan, and you are a member of The Friendship Association for the Blind. Do you use an Optacon (a reading machine for the blind) in reading textbooks, since the Association has received a number of sets this year?

A: In fact, The Friendship Association for the Blind received about seven sets of Optacons, one from His Excellency the British Ambassador in Jordan. Five of these sets are distributed

among five blind men and women, and the remaining two are kept for training other blind people at the headquarters of the Association.

Q: I see. Have you received training on the Optacon?

A: No.

Q: How do you solve your reading problems, then?

A: I receive some braille textbooks from the Students' Braille Library in London, and there are several volunteers who record for me the books I need.

Q: I expect your volunteers are students at the university, aren't they?

A: Well, I must admit that the number of students at the university who can read English well and have sufficient time to volunteer are quite few. In this respect, I should thank one specific young lady who graduated this year from the University of Jordan, Miss Rana Al Safadi who was of great help during the last years. But the bulk of the volunteers are not from the university. Through the Friendship Association for the Blind, an honourable Canadian lady and an honourable Indian one volunteered, and continue to volunteer. They have recorded countless books for me, and to them I owe any success or progress I expect to make in my studies.

Mr. Fahd Salameh works at the news department in Radio Jordan, plays chess, and the piano as hobbies and leads a happy family life with his wife Muzayyan and his daughter Rawan and son Ribal. His ambitions are many, but the first and foremost is to become one day a literary figure. We hope, one day, to make the interview with the then outstanding literary figure, Fahd A. Salameh.



To be hungry in Africa

By Rory Channing
Reuters

NAIROBI — Refugees fleeing famine and civil war in Africa make headlines, but hunger also takes a grim, if less visible, toll in the shanty towns, slums and remote peasant smallholdings of the world's poorest continent.

As night falls nearly 100 million people, one in every five of the population, go to sleep without full bellies in sub-Saharan Africa. Every fifth child in the region dies before his fifth birthday for want of better diet, immunisation and health care.

"Hunger in Africa is a huge, intractable problem," the World Bank said in a report released

here recently urging new action to ease Africa's hunger pangs.

Yet, it cautions, it will take many years to dent the problem, which is aggravated by the hefty foreign debt, poverty, war and crop damage caused in turn by drought, floods and locust plagues.

"There are no quick fixes, no easy answers, no simple shortcuts," the Bank said in its report called "The Challenge of Hunger in Africa — A Call to Action."

It proposed concerted efforts on national programmes to promote food security, and priority for projects and policies that raise the meagre incomes of the hungry and curb swings in food prices and supplies.

It also urged steps to strengthen institutional management to tackle the problem, better use of food aid and more systematic efforts to identify people at risk. None of these ideas is new, noted World Bank President Barber Conable in the report's foreword.

"What is new is that this report calls for a partnership to be formed among donors, non-governmental organisations and African governments to support comprehensive policies and programmes for food security," he declared.

World Bank figures paint a grim picture of the struggle for survival in countries south of the Sahara:

— Only one-quarter of people living in the countryside, which is home to seven-tenths of Africans, and less than two-thirds of those in the towns and cities, have safe drinking water.

— In 1981, even before African economies took a marked turn for the worse, there was only one doctor for every 25,000 people compared with one for every 550 in industrialised nations.

— Individual incomes have slumped by one-fifth in the 1980s.

— For nearly 20 years food production has lagged behind the growth of sub-Saharan Africa's rapidly swelling population, currently 500 million people and expected to exceed 700 million by the turn of the century.

To close the gap the region would have to boost food output by four per cent a year, or double what is managed presently.

"At no time in history has any group of nations faced the challenge of increasing incomes and achieving food security in a situation of such rapid population growth," the review said.

The real problem, it said, is

that African countries have failed to grow enough food or to generate enough revenue to buy supplies from the well-stocked world market, and that poor households can't afford to buy or produce adequate food.

More than half the people in sub-Saharan Africa who can't obtain or afford enough food live in seven countries — Ethiopia, Zaire, Uganda, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya.

In the first four of these countries, along with Chad, Zambia and Somalia, more than four-tenths of the populace does not get enough to eat.

The Bank diagnoses the deficiency as sometimes chronic and sometimes transitory.

Symptoms of the former are a persistently inadequate diet resulting from an inability to get food by any means — such as producing, buying, bartering or foraging.

The latter reflects a temporary squeeze on a household's access to food because of unaffordable prices, or erratic output or income.

Governments, media and donors pay much attention to this sort of deprivation, caused by sudden disruptions in food supplies, because shortages trigger sharp price hikes and provoke political reactions which may derail government economic programmes, the report noted.

"In the process many of the chronically food-insecure may be pushed over the edge to starvation, fleeing their homes and descending on cities and refugee camps."

"These dramatic migrations are newsworthy, unlike the slow grind of chronic food insecurity practically invisible to the untrained observer," it added.

Linguist is gaga over virtues of baby talk

By Randi Henderson

KENSINGTON, Md. — Baby talkers, says Nan Bernstein Ratner, should not be ashamed of the "goo-goo's and gaa-gaa's" and all the other sounds that they make at babies that sound silly but feel right.

Go ahead, have those little conversations with your baby, says the University of Maryland assistant professor of linguistics and speech pathology. Repeat words, elevate your pitch, speak in italics and exclamation points. "You may not know it, but what you are doing is teaching the baby some 'guy' to talk."

As a student of baby talk — what she calls "a very respectable area of inquiry in the field of child language development," Ratner, 35, finds her work little understood by the public.

"The public either thinks these things are self-evident or they think it's ridiculous," she explained from the floor of the living room of her Kensington home while her children, 10-month-old Adam and 3-year-old Jamie, provided constant distractions.

She finds herself battling, for example, no less an authority than Miss Manners, columnist Judith Martin, who had this to say about baby talk in her 1984 book, *Miss Manners' Guide to Raising Perfect Children*.

"Baby talk, as the affliction of practically everyone who comes into contact with a baby, even one that doesn't articulate at all yet, is as illogical as it is irresistible... The household that gives in to it is doing the child a serious disservice. Eventually he will find out that word such as 'oo' are not on the college entrance examinations, and he will have to learn a second language..."

Such an attitude couldn't be further from the truth, Ratner insists. For she believes that just as babies are born with an innate capacity to learn language, adults — and older children — have an instinctive gift to teach language. "Human beings are born as nurturing creatures," she said. "Why shouldn't it be inborn in us as well to use different kinds of language with babies, to be sensitive to their undeveloped language abilities and to help them

learn language?"

"It's much more complicated than meets the eye," Ratner said. When people hear baby talk, they hear something that is "almost embarrassingly cute. They hear the funny intonation contour, they hear the funny little words like 'tummy' or 'ickypoo.'" And that's what they think baby talk is in its entirety.

"But speech to children is like a whole language. There's much more to it than simply its intonation and its vocabulary. It has its own syntax, its own grammar. There are specific ways in which adults put sentences together for kids. They use very short sentences, they repeat themselves a lot, they paraphrase."

In the scientific-academic world baby talk is called child-directed speech or "motherese," a name that Ratner believes is "sort of unfair" because fathers and other relatives and caretakers also use baby talk. Baby talk is used in some form in every culture that has ever been studied, clear evidence of its intrinsic value, Ratner believes.

Coming from a background of work with speech-impaired children, Ratner became interested in baby talk while a doctoral student at Boston University. "There's so much to learn and they do it so quickly," she said. "I think it's very fascinating. Take a baby, starts talking at the age of 1 or later, by age 4 most kids sound wonderful. So in three years they learn a whole language. Older folks, she pointed out, don't learn quite so quickly. "We all took languages in high school and college, and in three years basically we learned enough to stumble through telling people our luggage was lost at the airport."

Adults manage to understand each other. But when she read those studies Dr. Ratner wondered, "if adult speech to children is 50 per cent lousy, 50 per cent degraded, and kids don't have vocabulary yet, they don't have grammar yet, how the heck do they ever figure out how to talk? And the obvious hypothesis was that adult speech to kids in much clearer."

She proved that hypothesis with her doctoral studies, in which she computer-analysed parents' recorded conversations



Baby talkers should not be ashamed of the goo-goo's and gaa-gaa's and all the other sounds they make at babies that sound silly but feel right, experts say.

with babies, studying intonation, pitch, vocabulary, syntax, grammar. Each aspect seems to have its own function. Intonation, for example, the lilting, melodic tone that adults often use in talking to babies, serves to get the baby interested.

Those studies led to another

observation: fathers, she found, tended to use somewhat more complex vocabularies with their babies.

"Fathers do a lot of the same things that mothers do, but they tend to be somewhat less mollycoddling. The fathers were much less condescending to the children."

For example, she would give them toys to play with and the parents would name the toys.

"The mothers would say, 'look at the animals, look at the horse, look at the tiger.' But we had fathers saying things like, 'do you see this tiger? He comes from Africa. He's a wild animal. He's not domesticated.'"

That leads to a theory, Ratner said, "about fathers as a bridge between mothers and the outside world," a theory that is under investigation by linguists and could have implications in fatherless homes — Los Angeles Times.

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Free up commerce, GATT demands

GENEVA (Agencies) — The world trade body GATT warned Friday, ahead of global trade talks opening Monday in Montreal, that it was more important than ever to reduce trade barriers.

"With the growing linkages among economies, the costs of ill-conceived trade policies is developed and developing countries will continue rising," the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said in a trade review.

Major trading blocs and nations have fired increasingly hostile rhetoric at each other as they jockey for position at the Montreal ministerial talks, a mid-term meeting to advance the four-year Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

But the GATT report emphasised the need for the Uruguay Round, launched in 1986, to make progress in reaching agreement to cut protection worldwide.

"The result will be higher long-term economic growth. This is precisely what is needed to deal with the challenges posed by technological innovation and worldwide demographic trends," it said.

The workforces in developing countries would probably grow by 55 per cent, or 600 million people, between 1990 and 2010. The addition would be nearly as large as the entire current populations of North America and Western Europe.

Combined with technological change, such population trends are likely to affect the relative competitiveness of a broad range of industries — and it is important to have free trade to adjust to the changes, the report said.

To cope with their increased populations, developing countries would have to mobilise domestic savings, implement realistic exchange rates, reform their trade rules and push for better global trade policies, the GATT report added.

Japanese pledge global trade policy cooperation

Meanwhile, Japan has assured President Ronald Reagan that to expand free trade it would coordinate policy with the United States at next week's global trade talks in Montreal, a Japanese official says.

Reagan emphasised to Japanese Foreign Minister Yasuhide Umeo during a meeting Thursday at the White House that both countries needed to work together to ensure a successful outcome to the trade talks, an Uno aide told reporters.

Uno, who heads the Japanese delegation to Montreal, told Reagan that in order to promote free trade, he would coordinate with the United States the Montreal talks, said the aide, Japanese foreign ministry official Yukio Okamoto.

Japan and the United States are not in total agreement, but members of Uno's delegation said the two nations' positions overlap more than they differ.

Uno and U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter agreed that the success of the Uruguay Round of trade talks "is very important for the two countries in sustaining the free trade system," said Motoji Yabunaka, director of the foreign ministry's Second North American Division.

"To give momentum to the negotiations, they... agreed to work together because according also to Mr. Yeutter in most of the positions of Japan and the United States, we share a lot... so naturally we should closely work together in the coming mid-term review," he added.

A major disagreement is over Japan's import ban on rice, protecting a domestic product several times more costly than U.S. rice, and prompting the U.S. rice industry to file an unfair trade case. Yeutter last month held up U.S. government action on the industry petition until the entire issue of agricultural trade is discussed at the Montreal talks.

While prepared to discuss all farm trade issues, Japan regards rice as its historic staple food and maintains that "special consideration should be given to basic foodstuffs from the viewpoint of food security... special concessions should be given," Yabunaka said.

"But we are not denying discussion of access" to the market, he added.

"Certainly we believe we should work toward further liberalisation of agricultural trade," Yabunaka said.

He noted that Japan is the world's largest net importer of foodstuffs.

"We can rather proudly say we have been a contributing factor to the expansion of agricultural trade — even though sometimes (we are) exposed as rather negative because of only one sector (rice), as you know," he said.

Yeutter was quoted by Yabunaka as saying U.S.-Japanese trade was moving in the right direction after Uno told him Japanese imports of U.S. goods rose to \$40.6 billion in the year ending last October, compared to \$30 billion last year.

Yeutter said Wednesday the United States is ready to freeze farm subsidies, but only if other countries "promise to join in long-term reforms."

He included domestic subsidies and barriers to imports as well as export subsidies in the U.S. proposal for an immediate freeze.

"But the United States will take only those actions — short-term or long-term — that are also taken by our trading partners, and we will take no short-term action of any kind unless we achieve in Montreal a satisfactory commitment to long-term reform," he told a conference on world trade at George Washington University.

The United States proposed last year to phase out all farm subsidies by the year 2000. They cost taxpayers tens of billions of dollars every year in the United States. Japan and Western

Europe, and help keep food prices high. Other governments, especially in Europe, have called the proposal unrealistic but maintain they also want to cut costs.

Earlier this month, President Reagan said the United States would be flexible about subsidies as long as everyone agreed on a plan with specific dates for ending subsidies that distort trade and bar international access to markets.

Yeutter said the United States is ready to leave some items out of the proposed ban on subsidies: Food that is sent as aid to poor countries, and help to a country's farmers that does not affect prices or production.

He also announced other goals for the complex negotiations.

"What must come from our meeting in Montreal is the determination and the momentum needed to push these negotiations toward a successful conclusion two years from now," he said.

The Reagan administration also wants commitments for:

- Rules on services, such as air travel, banking and insurance, which now are covered by few international accords.
- Better enforcement of patents and copyrights. U.S. computer industries reported a loss of \$4 billion, and entertainment industries lost \$2 billion, in 1986

because of a lack of protection.

Negotiation on foreign investment as it relates to trade.

Improved ways to settle international trade disputes.

What he called "a stronger and healthier General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade."

Increased access for exports.

EC to hold U.S. responsible if Montreal talks fail

In Brussels, the European Community (EC) said Wednesday Washington would be responsible for a failure of the mid-term review of world trade talks in Montreal if it stuck to its call for an end to farm subsidies.

"Farmers who do not want to take into account the set objectives... must realise that in acting this way they would carry a very clear responsibility in case of a failure of the Montreal meeting," EC Commissioner Willy De Clercq said.

Though he did not name the United States, De Clercq was clearly referring to a U.S. demand for the long-term abolition of all agricultural subsidies by the end of the century.

"We continue to insist on a significant and concerted reduction of (farm) support. Except for error on my part, the U.S. attitude remains as we know it, that is, excessive," De Clercq said.

any wrongdoing and says the plant is safe with minor modifications. It has also said U.S. agencies have investigated allegations about the nuclear plant but brought no charges of wrongdoing. The lawsuit seeks damages of up to three times the value of the contract, according to the text of the document given to reporters.

Aquino said the lawsuit also cited contractors Westinghouse International Projects, and engineer Burns and Roe Enterprises, who designed the 600-megawatt plant on the Bataan peninsula west of Manila.

Reuters to stop Long Island operations

NEW YORK (AP) — Reuters Holdings Plc. said Thursday it plans to discontinue manufacturing operations at its IDR Inc. subsidiary on Long Island next year, and would take an extraordinary charge of \$10 million to \$15 million this year. The subsidiary has been building subscriber terminals for Reuters, Reuters said its future lay with personal computers, and expects to be able to buy such computers on the open market by the end of 1989 at a more favourable price than from its own subsidiary. Despite the charge, Reuters expects to report revenue and profit growth for all of 1988.

EPB sees slower S. Korean growth

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's dynamic economic growth will slow to a single-digit figure next year while its current account surplus also will narrow to below \$10 billion, government economists predicted Thursday. The government's Economic Planning Board (EPB) predicted the nation's economy, expected to grow 11.5 per cent this year, will improve by eight-nine per cent in real terms in 1989. The board said the projected decline in the trade surplus will lower the current account surplus from this year's \$13.5 billion to \$9 billion next year. The trade surplus will narrow from an expected slowdown of export growth as well as rising imports resulting from the expanded opening of the domestic market to foreign goods, the government board said. The planning board said that by the end of the year, the export volume is likely to reach \$60 billion, representing 27 per cent growth over last year. It said export prices of domestic goods rose 14 per cent by the end of November, enough to make up for most of the losses suffered from the appreciation of the South Korean won.

U.K. presents bill to sell electric utility

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government introduced legislation Thursday to sell the country's electricity industry, the biggest and most controversial move in her plan to dispose of state-owned assets. Energy Minister Cecil Parkinson immediately took issue with critics who claim consumers will be forced to pay higher rates to the new private shareholders. "There are no new costs created by privatisation," Parkinson told a news conference. "There is now new levy created by privatisation... the idea that public ownership and the monopoly are some sort of insurance against price increases is a sick joke." The opposition Labour Party's energy spokesman, Tony Blair, predicted that the government's plan would add 25 per cent to consumers' electric bills. Shares will be sold to foreigners as well as British citizens, Parkinson said. The limit on share ownership has not been decided, but he said limiting any one stockholder to 15 per cent of shares had worked well in other privatisation plans.

W. German growth continues strong

BONN (R) — The West German economy maintained strong growth in the third quarter of this year and was heading for its best annual growth since 1979, the economics ministry said Thursday. The gross national product (GNP), the total monetary value of all goods and services produced by a country, rose by 1.5 per cent in real, volume terms in the third quarter from the second, giving a year-on-year rise of 3.4 per cent. The provisional figures were in line with economists' expectations. The economics ministry said in a statement that prospects for the fourth quarter and the coming year were favourable. "Average yearly economic growth of around 3½ per cent in 1988, the best result since 1979, seems therefore very likely," the ministry said. GNP grew four per cent in 1979. The ministry attributed the robust state of the economy to buoyant domestic and foreign demand.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

France lifts ban on Iranian oil imports

PARIS (R) — France has decided to lift completely its embargo on Iranian oil imports, the industry ministry said Friday. It imposed the ban when the two countries severed diplomatic relations in July 1979 over an Iranian embassy official's alleged involvement in terrorist attacks in Paris. Paris and Tehran re-established ties when the last French hostages in Lebanon were freed in June. The French government eased the embargo in September by allowing barter deals between the two countries. "The industry ministry has informed oil companies that imports of Iranian crude oil are from now on subject to normal rules applying for this trade," a ministry statement said. Before the 1987 embargo, Iran was France's main oil supplier.

Nabisco accepts Kohlberg Kravis bid

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. tobacco and food conglomerate RJR Nabisco Inc. has sold itself to the lower bidder for \$24.7 billion in the biggest corporate takeover in history. The winner in the auction that began in October was Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co., a New York-based firm that specialises in takeovers using a high proportion of borrowed cash. It will pay \$109 a share in cash for 73 per cent of RJR Nabisco, which is best known for its cereals, Ritz crackers, Planters nuts and Winston cigarettes, and then buy the rest for securities and debt valued at the same amount. RJR Nabisco, the 19th largest U.S. industrial company, said in a statement late Wednesday that a special committee of outside directors which conducted the unusual corporate auction had unanimously rejected a \$112 per share, or \$25.4 billion offer from an investor group led by Nabisco's chief executive F. Ross Johnson.

ATT to take big charge against income

NEW YORK (AP) — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT) said Thursday it will take a \$6.7 billion charge against its fourth-quarter earnings to cover expenses related to getting rid of outdated telephone equipment. ATT said the charge would reduce its profits by \$3.9 billion, resulting in a loss for the year, but would not "adversely affect our ability to pay dividends and continue investing in the business." The bulk of the charge, \$5 billion, is to reflect on the books the lower value of outdated network equipment. The remaining \$1.7 billion is for the costs of removing the outdated equipment, write-downs in the value of related equipment and reductions in employment.

Manila files suit against Westinghouse

MANILA (R) — The Philippines government said Thursday it is suing the U.S. Westinghouse Electric Corp. for punitive damages over a \$2.1 billion nuclear plant Manila says is too dangerous to operate. President Corason Aquino announced that the government had filed a suit that the company had bribed former president Ferdinand Marcos to win the contract. Westinghouse has denied

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Reagan boasts creating world economic model

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan said Thursday he will ride off into the sunset next month knowing his administration's programme of "supply side economics" had become a model for the world.

"What we have done here in America, the economic model we have created, truly has become what (supply side economist) Jude Wanniski described as 'the way the world works'," said the president, whose term in office ends next month.

"Come January, when I saddle up and ride off into the sunset, it will be with the knowledge that we've done great things," he said at a dinner honouring retiring Republican representative Jack Kemp of New York.

Of Kemp, one of the principal architects of supply side theory, Reagan said: "Your ideas helped fuel us to go further into the future than we ever dreamed possible."

"All the major industrialised nations either have or are in the process of cutting rates. Privatisation is sweeping the Third World. Developing countries no longer look to the state for growth... (and) even communist countries

are reforming their system to permit more economic freedom," he noted.

The theory of supply side economics postulates that by lowering personal taxes individuals will be encouraged to work harder and consume more, fuelling economic growth.

Reagan boasted that his programme of cutting personal tax rates by 30 per cent over a three-year period had led to six years of steady growth in the U.S. economy with low inflation.

Unmentioned, however, was the fact that his administration also piled up huge annual federal budget deficits which peaked at over \$200 billion in the fiscal year 1986 before beginning a slow decline.

President-elect Bush has declared a reduction of the deficit his top priority after he takes office Jan. 20.

"The truth is that for six years now the economy has been so good that occasionally they even had to announce it on the evening news," said Reagan.

whose White House staff has long insisted that the accomplishments of his administration were not being given sufficient publicity.

"The story would be something like, 'with the economy booming, can depression be far behind?'" Reagan quipped.

He hailed Kemp as the conservative ally who fired "solid gold bullets" in Congress. He called Kemp an unstinting fighter for conservative values, and said Bush will need only to "sound the trumpet" when he needs support and "the great army of idealists and activists we have counted on will be ready to charge." "When you talk about Jack, one word comes to mind: The cause," Reagan said. "Wherever he is, he will fight for that cause, and what united every single person in this room is our shared commitment to that cause."

On financial matters, meanwhile, Reagan, in his final budget, will try to overhaul the way Congress parcels out money, including recommending a switch from one-year to two-year spending plans.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, who will stay on in the Bush administration, has been particularly supportive of the two-year budget cycle.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Dec. 1, 1988 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.4 384.3
U.S. dollar	465.0	467.0	Dutch guilder	238.1 239.3
Pound Sterling	890.4	884.7	Swedish crown	77.3 77.8
Deutschmark	286.5	289.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.3 36.5
Swiss franc	320.6	322.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.3 128.9
French franc	78.6	79.0		

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:			
	Nov. 26-30	Nov. 19-23	
Daily average	JD 979,223	JD 810,203	
Total volume	JD 4,896,119	JD 4,051,017	
Total shares	2,570,392	3,026,006	
No. of contracts	2,456	3,385	
Sectoral trading:			
Industrial	JD 1,893,708 (40.5%)	JD 2,231,176 (55.0%)	
Financial	JD 2,636,924 (45.0%)	JD 1,762,104 (44.5%)	
Service	(11.2%)	(0.3%)	
Insurance	(2.6%)	(1.1%)	
Share price index	125.5	125.7	
No. of companies	76	78	
Price movement (rise)	26	18	
(decline)	40	52	
(stable)	10	8	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8505/15	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.7330/40	Deutschmarks	
	1.9540/50	Dutch guilders	
	1.4518/25	Swiss francs	
	36.30/33	Belgian francs	
	5.9175/9225	French francs	
	1280/1281	Italian lire	
	121.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.0205/55	Swedish crowns	
	6.4640/90	Norwegian crowns	
	6.6780/6830	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	423.80/424.30	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed easier after failing to sustain a slight recovery early in the day as the market drifted on concerns over higher interest rates. The All Ordinaries index fell 4.7 to 1,451.8.

TOKYO — Prices ended a featureless session mixed, waiting along with the bond and currency markets for the release of U.S. November unemployment figures. The Nikkei index shaved off 9.21 points, or 0.03 per cent, to 29,532.25.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended a day of range trading marginally lower, mainly on usual pre-weekend caution. The Hang Seng index was down 0.77 of a point to 2,667.26.

SINGAPORE — Prices ended generally lower on stoploss selling, which took the Straits Times industrial index below the psychologically important 1,000-level. It closed 4.10 lower at 999.37.

BOMBAY — Prices closed steady after moderate trading. Tata Steel rose 25 rupees to 1,100.

FRANKFURT — Shares rebounded from sharply lower opening prices to close only slightly easier. The 30-share Dax index closed at 1,275.78, down 2.20.

ZURICH — Shares closed steady in lively trading as investors continued to switch between different classes of share. The Swiss index fell 0.1 to 920.3.

PARIS — Prices ended easier but off that lows reached after the release of U.S. employment data for November.

LONDON — Shares showed no reaction to the lower opening of Wall Street, which was anticipated after the stronger than expected U.S. non-farm employment data for November. The FTSE 100 index at 1453 GMT was down 19.7 to 1,759.0.

NEW YORK — A downturn in the dollar put renewed pressure on stocks, as blue chips crept lower in late-morning trading. The Dow was down 18 at 2,085.

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'Qualitative change' in Sino-Soviet relations

Soviet, Chinese leaders discuss Kampuchea problem

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in

the Kremlin Friday, the second day of Qian's visit to Moscow, TASS news agency said.

The brief report gave no details of their talks.

On Thursday, Qian and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to promote a solution to the Kampuchean conflict.

Their meeting in Moscow was the first in three decades between the foreign ministers of the world's two most powerful communist states and the two men said they were opening a new era in Sino-Soviet relations.

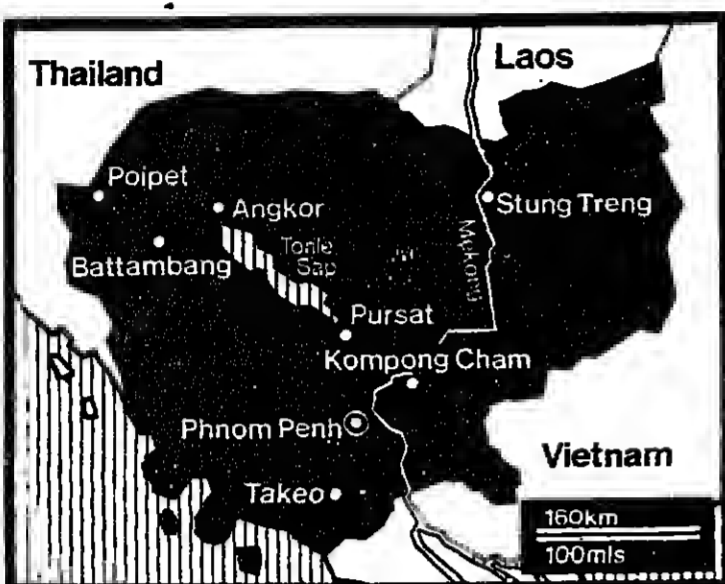
In their first meeting Thursday, Shevardnadze and Qian spent much of their time discussing the dispute over Kampuchea, and they set up a special working group, TASS said.

"They held a thorough, substantive exchange of views that enabled each side fully to present its position," TASS said. "The Soviet Union and China are interested in the earliest, fair and rational solution of that regional conflict."

TASS quoted the Vietnamese Defence Ministry as announcing in Hanoi that 18,000 Vietnamese soldiers would be withdrawn from Kampuchea between Dec. 15 to Dec. 21, the last of 50,000 soldiers being withdrawn this year.

China wants the Soviet Union to use its influence to get all Vietnamese soldiers out of Kampuchea, where they have been fighting a Chinese-backed resistance for the past decade. The dispute has been the main stumbling block to a Sino-Soviet summit.

Sino-Soviet relations soured in the early 1960s in a struggle over the direction of the world communist movement. Relations reached a low point in 1969 when they fought a brief



frontier war.

But Gorbachev has ordered a pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, reduced Soviet troops on the Chinese border and agreed to direct talks about the Vietnamese presence in Kampuchea.

Shevardnadze, in his talks Thursday with Qian, said, "One can speak of a new quality in bilateral relations."

"Great progress has been made but, as we understand it, neither Moscow nor Beijing are going to stop at what has been accomplished. They both believe that it is necessary to look into the future."

"We are glad that in recent years Sino-Soviet relations gradually are improving. I sincerely hope this visit will end the expected results," Qian said.

Qian agreed the relationship had undergone a "qualitative

change."

Qian is the first Chinese foreign minister to visit Moscow since 1957. The two countries clashed in the 1960s over ideological and border issues and only recently began steps towards overcoming their differences.

TASS said Thursday: "It was noted that the Soviet Union and China are interested in the earliest, fair and rational solution of that regional conflict," TASS reported.

"The sides reaffirmed their intention to facilitate the solution of the external aspects of the Kampuchean settlement on the understanding that internal aspects will be resolved as a result of contacts with the participation of all the Khmer sides," it said.

Qian was expected to push the Soviet Union for a detailed timetable for Vietnam's troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

Argentine army rebels take over largest military base

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine army rebels Friday took control of the country's largest military base, refusing to recognise the authority of Commander in Chief Jose Dante Caridi and swearing allegiance to a right-wing colonel.

"Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin took charge early this morning," an officer speaking from the Camp de Mayo army complex said.

Speaking on local radio the officer, who identified himself as Lieutenant-Colonel Olivera, said officers who had been in charge of the base had withdrawn.

Falklands war veteran Seineldin is a known sympathiser of cashed-in Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, currently awaiting court martial for leading two unsuccessful army uprisings in April, 1987 and January this year.

Two weeks ago Caridi vetoed Seineldin's promotion to brigadier general and recommended he be relieved of active duty for a year.

Olivera said that 48 hours earlier Seineldin had returned to Argentina from Panama where he was a military adviser to the government.

He added that 53 members of a

crack coast guard unit who had disappeared from their barracks early Thursday morning were inside the base.

Soldiers in combat dress, their faces blacked, refused to speak to reporters Friday morning as they stood guard outside the Camp de Mayo, the scene of Rico's 1987 'Easter Week' rebellion.

Overnight the defence ministry said it had neutralised attempted rebellions in two other army units although 53 men of an elite coast guard unit remained on the run after abandoning their barracks Thursday shouting "Long live Rico."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sydney closes Yugoslav consulate

SYDNEY (R) — Australia closed the Yugoslav consulate in Sydney Friday and gave the staff until Monday evening to leave the country. Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said. Evans told journalists Yugoslav officials had refused to hand over a security guard who is alleged to have shot and wounded a Croatian youth Sunday by the deadline of 6 p.m. (1070 GMT) Friday. "I very much regret Australia has been forced into this action," Evans said. On Thursday, Evans gave Yugoslavia 24 hours to hand over a consulate security guard. Matijas Zoran, following the shooting of Josef Tokic, 16, during a demonstration by Croats demanding independence for Croatia. Tokic is recovering in hospital after being hit in the neck by a shot fired from within the consulate grounds. Yugoslav officials claim the wound was caused by a ricochet.

ANC suspect plunges to his death

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A handcuffed black teenager suspected of belonging to the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement plunged seven floors to his death Thursday hours after being arrested, police said. Police Commissioner Hennie de Witt said 18-year-old Amos Khoza was arrested early in the morning by the security branch and taken to a flat in Johannesburg where he had been due to contact an ANC member. "On the way to the flat, he managed to throw himself over a wall and consequently fell to his death," de Witt said in a statement.

'Honecker to step down in 1990'

BERLIN (AP) — East German leader Erich Honecker will step down in 1990 after ruling the communist nation for 19 years, a newspaper reported Thursday. The Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper said the decision was made during a Thursday meeting of the party's Central Committee. The newspaper did not cite sources for its report. The state-run news agency ADN made no mention of personnel changes, saying only that a planned party conference had been moved up a year and would be held in May 1990. The newspaper said Honecker would retire at the end of the conference. Die Welt said that in addition to Honecker, several ageing and powerful Politburo members would also step down, including the head of the state security forces and the party's chief ideologue.

Five killed in Sri Lanka blast

COLOMBO (AP) — Sinhalese militants trying to topple the government of this troubled island nation attacked a presidential campaign rally, killing five people and injuring 25 others, authorities said. Eleven gunmen opened fire and threw small bombs Thursday night in suburban Colombo during a rally for Osiri Abeygunesekera, a candidate of the United Socialist Alliance.

authorities said. Four people died instantly, while the fifth died Friday morning at a hospital, officials said. The victims included one of Abeygunesekera's bodyguards and Devahandara Senarane, vice president of the Sri Lanka People's Party. One of four parties that form the alliance, officials said. It was the second attack in less than a month on a campaign rally for Abeygunesekera. On Nov. 17, suspected Sinhalese militants threw bombs at a campaign meeting, killing three people and injuring 50. All three candidates in the Dec. 19 presidential election have received death threats from the People's Liberation Front, a radical Sinhalese group demanding the government's resignation.

Zambia blames Pretoria for blasts

LUSAKA (AP) — Zambia Thursday blamed South African agents for two recent bombings which killed two civilians in the capital of Lusaka. Secretary of State for Defence Alex Shapi said security police believed the culprits were Zambians in the pay of Pretoria or actual South African agents. The first blast was a car bomb which went off last Friday night at a motel on the outskirts of Lusaka. The car was owned by the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla-backed movement fighting the white-led government in South Africa. One ANC member was killed and another injured.

Tanzania recalls Mozambique troops

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania announced Thursday that it has withdrawn the troops who were helping Mozambique fight right-wing rebels. The Tanzanian troops, thought by Western diplomats to number several thousand, had helped defend the northern province of Zambezia since their deployment in 1987. Several thousand Zimbabwean troops remain in Mozambique to defend the strategic road, railway and oil pipeline to Zimbabwe from the Mozambique port of Beira. The Tanzanian pull-out was not announced in advance although it had been rumoured since early November. Defence Ministry spokesman Major Cuni Zongo told Reuters it was completed in November.

Papandreou brings companion to summit

RHODES, Greece (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou defied critics Thursday when he flew to a summit meeting in the island of Rhodes with the airline stewardess who has become his companion in recent months. Papandreou, 69, facing a political crisis, has been pilloried in several Greek newspapers for his relationship with 34-year-old Dimitra Liati. But she was with him when he stepped from the aircraft which brought him to Rhodes, where he will be the host at two days of European Economic Community (EEC) summit talks. As well as criticism of his private life, the prime minister faces opposition allegations that his socialist government, in office since 1981, mishandled a banking scandal. And some government members have been sacked or have had to resign in recent days.

Bangladesh, India cyclone toll rises

SHAMNAGAR, Bangladesh (AP) — A cyclone that flattened entire villages killed up to 1,200 people in Bangladesh and India and left five million homeless, newspapers and officials said Friday.

More than 3,000 people were missing, mostly fishermen who refused to abandon their boats when the cyclone struck Tuesday night, according to an official of the Red Crescent society, the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross.

Thousands of cattle were killed, and vast expanses of rice paddies were devastated.

In Shamnagar, a town of 6,000 people in southwestern Bangladesh's Satkhira District, not a single house could be seen standing. Residents said about 10 people in Shamnagar died in the storm that flattened their mud and straw houses.

"I have lost everything —

my homes, my crops, my cattle," said Ahmed Ali, who found refuge with his wife and five children in a sturdier school building.

As tears rolled down his bearded face, the 45-year-old farmer added: "There is no future for me and my family."

From Khulna 60 kilometres east to Shamnagar, village after village lay in ruins. Rarely were trees visible against the skyline. Hundreds of palms lay uprooted on the ground.

"I have lost whatever I had — the house and the crops ready for harvest," said Ramzan Ali, a 45-year-old farmer in Taltala, 70 kilometres west of Khulna.

More than half of the mud and straw houses in Taltala, a village of 500 people, were flattened by the cyclone's 165-kilometre-per-hour winds.

The New Nation, an English

language newspaper published in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka, said reports from its correspondents showed more than 700 people died in the cyclone.

The independent Bengali-language Iqbalah pot the death toll at 1,037, higher than any other newspaper.

Dainik Bangla, another independent Bengali paper, said more than 10,000 people were injured and five million were homeless.

Government figures, which are generally regarded as low in the disasters that hit Bangladesh with deadly regularity, were more conservative.

The government-owned Bangladesh Times, quoting official sources, put the death toll at 577.

An official at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in Dhaka,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said nearly 700 bodies had been recovered, most of them in the southwestern districts of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

He said rescuers were searching for about 3,000 fishermen missing in the Bay of Bengal.

United News of India quoted police sources in the Indian city of Calcutta as saying 210 deaths were reported in West Bengal state, which abuts Bangladesh.

The cyclone stormed in from the Bay of Bengal, triggering tidal waves of up to five metres that submerged the low-lying islands and sandbars off the coast.

The storm inflicted damage on 30 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts, the most widespread cyclone damage in the country's recorded history.



THE WORK THAT MOVED MILLIONS
— Pablo Picasso's "Acrobats and Young Harlequin," which was sold for \$37.62 million to a Japanese buyer in a London auction last week. It was a world record price for a 20th century work of art.

EEC opens summit

RHODES, Greece (Agencies) — The 12 European Economic Community (EEC) leaders opened a two-day summit Friday to review progress in moves to create a borderless, single-market Europe by 1992.

Officials said the leaders would seek to reassess the United States and Japan, the EEC's main trading partners, that their efforts to boost trade within the EEC will not be at the expense of imports.

A draft statement to that effect, states that a single EEC market will benefit also "non community countries. 1992 Europe will not close in on itself... will not be a fortress Europe but a partnership Europe."

About 12 hours before the summit began, four bombs exploded in Athens, 435 kilometres northwest of Rhodes, police said. No one was injured in the blasts that caused minor damage to buildings, including an EEC office. The Revolutionary Popular Struggle said it set off the bombs. The left-wing group has claimed responsibility for bomb attacks in the past.

On the Middle East, an EEC statement before the summit urged the United States to reconsider its refusal of a visa for Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to address the U.N. General Assembly in New

York.

"The 12 call upon the U.S. government to review the legal arguments and reconsider its decision," the statement said.

The statement said: "The 12 believe that in accordance with the (U.N.) headquarters agreement and the opinion of the legal counsel of the United Nations, Mr. Arafat should be allowed to address the U.N. assembly in New York."

"The 12 are also firmly of the opinion that at this stage of the situation regarding the Middle East it would be important not to hinder the role of the U.N. as a forum before which a leader of a party to the dispute would express his views on the matter."

"Moreover the 12 feel it is necessary to maintain and encourage the momentum created by the recent decisions of the Palestine National Council."

The community's response to the PNC meeting in Algiers last month proclaiming a Palestinian state and implicitly recognising Israel was more positive than that of the United States, diplomats say.

EEC governments believe the Algiers declaration could be a step towards reviving the Middle East peace process and want to build on it by pressing the United States and Israel to agree to a U.N.-sponsored peace conference.

Parliament adopts Gorbachev reforms

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Parliament adopted President Mikhail Gorbachev's overhaul of the nation's political structure Thursday in a nearly unanimous vote after he apologised for inadequately explaining the proposal when it was introduced five weeks ago.

Five deputies in the 1,500-member Supreme Soviet, or parliament, voted against the package of constitutional amendments, which give more power to the president and provide for

indirect election of the president and lawmakers.

While greater opposition had been expected after deputies requested numerous changes in the complex package, the handful of negative votes were a rarity in the Supreme Soviet, which has dutifully rubber-stamped the wishes of the Kremlin leadership for decades.

Gorbachev told the deputies a storm of controversy over the reform package, — including 250,000 letters to the Kremlin —

could have been prevented, and he took the blame.

"We did not care about explaining the essence, the meaning" of the changes, Gorbachev said. "The centre was just following the old practice, thinking, well, they would get used to it."

"That is why I reiterate all of us are now learning our lessons. All of us are in a school of democracy, and we should be good pupils in that school," Gorbachev said.

Soviet newspapers first published the draft language of the

complex revisions in 117 articles of the constitution and election law in late October. The changes were not explained at the time, nor was it clear who wrote them.

Many elements were not understood right away," Gorbachev said.

The president also said the revised constitution was temporary, as further changes would respond to demands that local government councils be given stronger powers over Moscow ministries.

Indian supreme court stays execution of Gandhi killers

NEW DELHI (R) — Two Sikhs convicted in the 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi won a temporary reprieve Thursday 14 hours before they were due to be executed.

Lawyers for Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh lost one legal bid in the Delhi high court earlier Thursday to stay the execution, which was to have taken place in the capital's Tihar maximum security jail Friday morning.

But they then raced to India's highest judicial body, the supreme court, minutes before it was to adjourn for the day.

The supreme court agreed to accept their petitions and set Tuesday for the hearings, which are expected to last at least a day.

Security forces throughout northern India had been put on

alert to prevent reprisals after the hangings. Militants fighting for an independent homeland for India's 16 million Sikhs have vowed revenge if the executions take place.

Kehar Singh's lawyer, Ram Jethmalani, barged into the supreme court as it was nearing the end of a hearing connected to the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

"It is of utmost urgency," he said. "My client is to be hanged at 8 a.m. tomorrow."

The court agreed to listen his arguments and as he spoke he was joined by lawyers for Satwant Singh.

Jethmalani, an opposition member of parliament, argued that his client's mercy petition had been improperly dismissed by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

He also asked the court to clarify the use of the head of state's discretionary powers of clemency.

Jethmalani, visibly relieved after winning the delay, told reporters: "The more the government shows its enthusiasm for hanging a person, the more it hangs a person."

Satwant Singh's lawyer, R.S. Sodhi, said his client was willing to hang but wanted first to put on record his own account of events which followed the death of Gandhi.

Another Sikh bodyguard who took part in the shooting was killed by other security men on the spot. Satwant was wounded.

Government lawyers told the supreme court the condemned men's lawyers were merely using delaying tactics.

N. Korean bomber faces court

SEOUL (R) — A self-avowed North Korean agent on Friday made her first public appearance since she confessed on television to blowing up a South Korean airliner a year ago.

In January Kim Yoo-Hui, 28, said on live television she planted bombs last Nov. 29 aboard the Korean Air Lines Boeing 707. The plane exploded in mid-air a few hours later near the Burmese coast, killing all 115 aboard.

State prosecutors, who began investigating her case last week, called her in for the first time Friday from the custody of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP). South Korea's powerful spy organisation.

Kim, better known as "Mayumi" after the name shown on the false Japanese passport

she was carrying when she was arrested, arrived at the office of the Seoul district prosecutor amidst heavy security. Her white sedan was escorted by four police vehicles.

Wearing an oversized white and black tracksuit top over dark slacks, she posed briefly for cameras, keeping her head bowed. She was not handcuffed and once or twice brushed back her long hair with her hand.

After about 10 seconds, she was led into the building by two women NSP agents. Reporters were barred from following her in, and she did not respond to their shouted questions.

Prosecution sources said Kim was expected to be returned to the NSP after questioning. It was

not immediately known how long she would stay in the prosecutors' office. They said she was likely to be formally indicted in court later this month.

The government once considered not prosecuting her because it regarded her as just a "puppet" of the communist leadership in Pyongyang. Authorities finally decided to put her on trial for fear of international protests and angry reaction from victims' relatives, the sources said.

They said that although Kim could be hanged if found guilty of mass murder, the government would probably pardon her after trial and use her case for anti-communist propaganda purposes to impress often sceptical young South Koreans.



Madame Tussaud dumps Dukakis

LONDON (AP) — A bit of Michael Dukakis' fame is melting away at Madame Tussaud's waxworks which plans to banish his image after the shortest exhibition in the museum's history. "In 218 years, Michael Dukakis naturally had the shortest exhibition life ever," Juliet Simpkins, head of publicity for the museum, said Wednesday. A wax image of the Democratic presidential candidate went on display next to a statue of President-elect George Bush Oct. 31, when Madame Tussaud's felt the election was too close to call. The Dukakis statue will come down Dec. 9, and the head and head mold will be stored, Simpkins said. It was the first time Madame Tussaud's had displayed both American presidential candidates. In the previous three elections, she said, the museum correctly guessed the winner.

Hockney art price doubles

LONDON (AP) — An anonymous buyer paid a record \$352,000 (\$651,000) for a 1967 painting by David Hockney — more than double recent prices for the British artist's work. The 244-centimetre-square acrylic painting, sold anonymously at Sotheby's and titled "A Neat Lawn," depicts a sprinkler on a lawn in front of a two-storey house bearing the number 1033. It was done in Berkeley, California. Hockney is one of the world's most popular living artists but his prices have not matched the millions paid for work by leading Americans. Hockney paintings and drawings have been fetching around \$300,000 each at recent auctions in London and New York. The auction house said their sale of contemporary and post-World War II art realised \$6,835 million (\$12.64 million), a record for such a sale in London.

Nixon had many things on his mind

NEW YORK (AP) — Important matters of state were not always uppermost in the mind of former U.S. President Richard M. Nixon. The glamour of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's dinner partners and the quality of the White House's wine cellar also concerned Nixon, according to a new book. Excerpts from "The President, Richard Nixon's Secret Files," edited by Bruce Oudes and published by Harper and Row, appear in People Magazine's Dec. 5 issue. The memos show Nixon was particularly concerned about the press. After the publication of the Pentagon papers, he told his assistant H.R. Halde- man to make sure no one spoke to the New York Times without the president's permission. But Nixon had other interests as well. In a March 1970 memo, he asked Halde- man: "Would you please have the Bordeaux years checked? I know that '59 is an excellent year, even with my unsophisticated taste, but my recollection is that '66 is one of the poor years. The reason I ask is that we seem to have a huge stock '66 Bordeaux on hand, and I wonder why." Memos from Nixon's aides revealed even the attractiveness of Kissinger's dinner companions did not escape the former president's notice. A February 1971 message from Halde- man to Nixon deputy Alex Butterfield stated, "In seating at state dinners, the president feels that Henry (Kissinger) should not always be put next to the most glamorous woman present."

Beatrice to be christened Dec. 20

LONDON (AP) — Princess Beatrice, the three-month-old daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, will be christened by the Archbishop of York Dec. 20, Buckingham Palace said Monday. The christening will take place in the historic Chapel Royal in London's Saint James's palace, where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were married in 1840 and where royal christenings occasionally have taken place. Princess Beatrice Elizabeth Mary, fifth in line to the throne and the fifth grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II, will wear the royal family's christening robe of Honiton lace and will be baptised in the silver gilt Lily Font, the palace said. The font was made for the christening in 1840 of Princess Victoria, the eldest child of Queen Victoria, and it has been used to baptise Queen Elizabeth's four children and grandchildren. The christening robe has been worn by all royal babies since the baptism of Victoria's eldest son, Prince Albert Edward, in 1842.